

*SUB B1* 1. (Amended) An input/output platform (IOP) access module for providing input/output device access between a host system and another system, via a data network, said IOP access module comprising:

4           a Local Transport arranged to provide an interface to an input/output platform (IOP)  
5           supporting an array of input/output devices;

6           a Remote Transport arranged to provide an interface to said another system, via said data  
7           network; and

8           a Connection Manager arranged to establish connection services and to create a direct call  
9           path between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport so as to provide access to input/output  
10          devices.

*D*  
*D* 3. (Amended) The input/output platform (IOP) access module of claim 1, wherein said host  
2          system corresponds to a host server, said another system corresponds to any one of remote servers,  
3          via said data network.

*SUB B2* 7. (Amended) A host system, comprising:  
*D3*  
2          a processor;  
3          an array of storage devices;  
4          a driver module for exporting local storage device access onto a computer network, said  
5          driver module comprising:

6                   a device driver module arranged to provide an interface to said array of local storage  
7                   devices;

8                   a host driver module arranged to provide an interface to an operating system, said  
9                   host driver module comprising a Local Transport which communicates with the device  
10                  driver module, a Remote Transport which provides an interface to said computer network,  
11                  and a Connection Manager which establishes connection services with remote systems on  
12                  said computer network and coordinates functions responsible for creating a direct call path  
13                  between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport to provide access to said storage  
14                  devices; and

15                  a communication layer which supports communications between the host driver  
16                  module and the device driver module.

23. (Amended) A process of establishing a service connection to a local input/output  
platform (IOP) connected to a local bus using a system driver module in response to a request from  
3                  a remote server on a system area network, comprising the steps of:

4                  beginning initialization of said driver module which provides access to a local storage system  
5                  while bypassing protocol stacks of a host operating system, said system driver module comprising  
6                  a Local Transport which provides direct access to the local storage device system, a Remote  
7                  Transport which interfaces to other nodes of said system area network, and a Connection Manager  
8                  which provides connection services and coordinates functions responsible for creating a direct call  
9                  path between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport;

10 scanning, at said Local Transport, the local bus to locate and initialize all local input/output  
11 platforms (IOPs), and building an IOP context structure for each input/output platform (IOP) found;  
12 preparing, at said Remote Transport, to accept a request for a service connection from said  
13 remote server on said system area network;

14 asking, at said Connection Manager, whether said Local Transport determines the number  
15 of input/output platforms (IOPs), and building a descriptor structure for each input/output platform  
16 (IOP) which includes an exported table of function call pointers and the context required by the  
17 Local Transport to communicate with the input/output platform (IOP); and  
18 establishing a system area network management communication channel through the Remote  
19 Transport, which waits for an external connection from said remote server on said system area  
20 network for exporting local device access onto said system area network using said direct call path  
21 between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport.

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